

## State Labor Market Information Improvement Grants

*Total: \$50 million*

*Total Wyoming: \$750,000 to \$1,250,000, if application is successful*

- *Final amount will be determined by U.S. Department of Labor*
- *Grants are competitive and not guaranteed*
- *The Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, in conjunction with the Wyoming Department of Employment, plans to apply*
- *Deadline for application is August 14, 2009*

*Purpose and Principles:* The Recovery Act provided \$750 million in competitive grants for worker training and placement in high-growth and emerging industries. Of that amount, \$500 million was designated for projects that prepare workers for careers in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors. The Workforce Investment Act defines these sectors to include: the energy-efficient building, construction, and retrofit industries; the renewable electric power industry; the energy efficient and advanced drive train vehicle industry; the biofuels industry; the deconstruction and materials use industries; the energy efficiency assessment industry serving residential, commercial, or industrial sectors; and manufacturers that produce sustainable products using environmentally sustainable processes and materials.

On June 24, 2009, the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration announced that the \$500 million would be disbursed through five grant opportunities, including this \$50 million grant, which encourages states, acting singularly or in groups, to collect, analyze and disseminate labor market information, and to enhance the ability of individuals to learn about and pursue careers within the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries. More specifically, the Department of Labor is seeking proposals for research and analysis of labor market data to assess economic activity in energy efficiency and renewable energy industries and identify occupations within those industries.

One goal is to obtain employment estimates of the number and skill characteristics of current and projected jobs in the green economy. The U.S. Department of Labor also is interested in assessing the extent to which new green jobs are being created as a result of Recovery Act investments as well as investments in green technologies by state and local governments, the private sector, and community organizations. Any data collection activities proposed by grant applicants must either conform to technical standards and methodologies established by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics or provide a sound rationale for use of an alternative methodology. Another key goal is to ensure that the training efforts being funded through the public workforce investment system provide workers with the training that will be in demand for green jobs, and to ensure that a supply of trained workers will be available to fill the openings posted by businesses that will be hiring as a result of Recovery Act investments.

*Grant Expenditure Period:* The period of grant performance will be up to 18 months from the date of execution of the grant documents.

*Eligible Applicants:* State workforce agencies. In Wyoming, the Department of Workforce Services. The Department of Labor encourages each State Workforce Agency to submit an application under this competitive grant process, and also encourages collaborative approaches, whereby multiple states apply as a consortium to conduct research that may potentially have a regional, multi-state or national impact.

*Online Information:* The Solicitation for Grant Application (SGA) can be found at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-14930.pdf>. A pre-recorded Webinar will be online and accessible for viewing by 1 p.m. MT on July 10, 2009, at <http://www.workforce3one.org>.

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